



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

**County of Los Angeles**  
**Sheriff's Department Headquarters**  
**4700 Ramona Boulevard**  
**Monterey Park, California 91754-2169**



March 5, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REPORT BACK ON SHERIFF/PROBATION ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM**

On February 26, 2013, the Board requested the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff) and Probation Department (Probation) to report back regarding specific questions on the status of the joint Voluntary Electronic Monitoring Program. The questions were generated by a Los Angeles Times article entitled, "Paroled sex offenders disarming tracking devices" dated February 23, 2013. Attached are the questions posed by the Fifth District, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich's Office, and the Department's responses.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me or Assistant Sheriff Cecil W. Rhambo, Jr. at (323) 526-5065.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA  
SHERIFF

*A Tradition of Service*

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The purpose of this document is to respond to the following questions from the Board of Supervisors, on February 26, 2013:

**1. The number and types of offenders placed on electronic monitoring and/or GPS tracking devices by the Probation and the Sheriff's Departments;**

The Sheriff, in conjunction with Probation and Sentinel Monitoring Company, currently has 41 male inmates and 4 female inmates on the Voluntary Electronic Monitoring program (EMP) as of February 27, 2013. The inmates are placed on a Radio Frequency (RF) Home Monitor, not Global Positioning System (GPS). The "involuntary" EMP program is still available. However, currently there are no qualified candidates.

In order to participate in voluntary EMP, an inmate must meet the following program guidelines:

- The inmate must be fully sentenced and have less than 365 days remaining on their sentence,
- Be a low-level, non-violent offender (i.e., substance abuse, theft related crimes),
- A security level no higher than a seven,
- No holds or outstanding warrants

Once qualified, Probation personnel conduct an in-depth risk assessment based on the certified Wisconsin Risk Assessment model. If the inmate qualifies for placement into the program, he or she will be scheduled for immediate release. Qualified inmates serve the remaining portion of their sentence on EMP.

The Probation Department administers an additional program in which 80 inmates are on RF home monitoring and 10 on GPS monitoring.

**2. The number of warrants issued and arrests made for unauthorized removal and/or disarming of monitoring and/or GPS tracking devices;**

In 2012, a total of 596 inmates participated in the Sheriff's voluntary EMP program. Of that number, 33 inmates were non-compliant with program guidelines and were returned to custody. Two inmates, one with a misdemeanor vandalism charge and one with a felony grand theft auto charge, absconded from the program by removing their electronic bracelet and are still outstanding.

The Sheriff's non-compliance team is notified of all program absconds. They immediately place a "WANT" into the Countywide Warrant System (CWS), National

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Crime Information Center (NCIC) and Wanted Person System (WPS) and attempt to find the inmate and return them to custody. If the team cannot locate the inmate, Probation issues a felony probation violation (1203.016(c) P.C.) for program participants who have absconded from the program with an original felony arrest charge. For inmates that abscond with an original misdemeanor arrest charge, Probation personnel prepare a formal escape report, 4532(A) (1) P.C., a misdemeanor.

The Sheriff is also monitoring 139 "N3" inmates with GPS tracking devices that are in custody and assigned to Sheriff's stations. These inmates are housed at the stations and utilized as inmate workers. The GPS device is an added layer of security and no "N3" inmates have absconded under this system.

### **3. The actual consequences to the offenders in light of Realignment;**

Currently, N3 offenders are not eligible for any out of custody programs such as electronic monitoring and are currently serving 100 percent of their time. This current program and its consequences remain unchanged post Realignment.

### **4. Recommendations on minimizing the risk to public safety when utilizing these devices;**

Inmates participating in EMP programs are screened to ensure only the lowest risk offenders participate. Program participants have case management, round the clock monitoring and a Sheriff's non-compliance team to respond in the event of a program violation or abscond. As it stands, this voluntary program has been successful and minimizes the risk to the public.

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The following are responses to additional questions posed to the Sheriff's Department on Friday, March 1, 2013:

### **1. How many parole and probation violators are in our jails?**

As of February 28, 2013 -

- Parole - 287 (parole violation only, no open charges)
- Probation (Flash Incarceration) - 66
- Probation - 24 (probation violation only, no open charges)

### **2. How many of the parole and probation violators in our jails are convicted sex offenders?**

- There is currently no mechanism to determine how many of these inmates are "convicted" sex offenders. Inmates are classified differently based on certain sex crimes against children; however, many sex crimes against adults are not captured because they are housed within the general population. This information would require a hand search of each inmate's conviction history.

### **3. What level of classification (between 1 and 10) are on electronic monitoring and on a GPS tracking device?**

- Sheriff's Department has no GPS release program
- 25 Low Security inmates (1-4)
- 16 Medium Security inmates (5-7)

### **4. Do all parole violators get the maximum penalty of 180 days?**

- Parole revocation terms are determined by a Parole Commissioner and can be for any length of stay up to 180 days
- Probation violation terms are set by the Court and Probation

### **5. If so, what percentage of the 180 days do they actually serve?**

- Parolees serve 100 percent of their sentence
- Probation violators serve 20 percent of their sentence

### **6. If not, what are the factors that determine how long the penalty should be?**

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### **7. What is the minimum and maximum penalty imposed?**

- Parole terms can be a minimum 30 and a maximum of 180 days
- Probation violation terms are set by the Court and Probation
- Probation also has the option of imposing Flash Incarceration which can be 1-10 days

### **8. What is the actual amount ultimately served in terms of percentage?**

- This only applies to probationers and depends on the original term of sentence
- Probation violators are released based on the Sheriff's percentage release policy just as all other non N3 inmates.